

Message Text

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O R 172030Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET SHORT WAVE RADIO INTERFERENCE

REF: STOCKHOLM 6792; OSLO 6214; COPENHAGEN 4513

1. FOR MOSCOW: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A NOTE WHICH YOU
SHOULD DELIVER AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL. ORIGINAL OF
NOTE SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO MFA AND COPY TO MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND POSTS.

BEGIN TEXT: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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WISHES TO CALL TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT
DISRUPTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BY
RADIO SIGNALS EMANATING FROM THE SOVIET UNION AT A
LOCATION APPROXIMATELY 51 DEGREES NORTH BY 31 DEGREES
EAST. FOR MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS THESE INTERFERING SIGNALS
HAVE DISRUPTED VARIOUS OPERATIONS IN THE AMATEUR,

AERONAUTICAL MOBILE AND MARITIME MOBILE SERVICES.

THE HARMFUL EMISSIONS WERE FIRST IDENTIFIED IN JULY OF THIS YEAR AND WERE OBSERVED TO HAVE OCCURRED ALMOST DAILY WITH

SOME PAUSE IN EARLY NOVEMBER. THE INTERFERENCE HAS OCCURRED AT VARIOUS PLACES IN THE HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO BANDS (BETWEEN 5 AND 22 MEGAHERTZ). THE 'P0' EMISSION CONSISTING OF 10 PULSES PER SECOND HAS A BANDWIDTH VARYING FROM 15 KHZ (SMALL K, CAPITAL H, SMALL Z) TO 2 MHZ (CAPITAL M, CAPITAL H, SMALL Z). SINCE JULY THE EMISSIONS HAVE BEEN MONITORED ON BOTH THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC COASTS OF THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS HAWAII.

SINCE JULY, THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION HAS ADDRESSED FOUR COMPLAINTS OF HARMFUL INTERFERENCE TO THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS REQUESTING THAT THE SOVIET UNION TERMINATE TRANSMISSION OF THESE DISRUPTIVE RADIO SIGNALS. THE SOVIET MINISTRY DID NOT RESPOND TO ANY OF THESE COMMUNICATIONS. IN ADDITION, TOWARD THE END OF OCTOBER, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST BY THE UNITED STATES, THE INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY REGISTRATION BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION TOOK THIS MATTER UP WITH SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE DISRUPTION BY THE SOVIET UNION OF INTERNATIONAL RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TO BE A SERIOUS MATTER. IT IS AN ACT WHICH IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTICULARLY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
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AND THE SOVIET UNION. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF SUCH INTERFERENCE ON RADIO OPERATIONS INVOLVING SAFETY OF LIFE ON THE SEAS AND IN THE AIR.

THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER AT ONCE AND ENSURE THAT THE DISRUPTIVE EMISSIONS ARE TERMINATED. END TEXT.

2. IN PRESENTING NOTE TO BOTH MINISTRIES EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THAT WE HAD HOPED THAT EARLIER COMMUNICATIONS FROM FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE LED TO REMEDIAL ACTION ON THE PART OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT. SINCE FCC COMMUNICATIONS HAVE APPEARED TO HAVE HAD NO IMPACT, USG CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO RAISE THE MATTER IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF MESSAGE FROM SOVIET MINISTRY OF POSTS AND COMMUNICATIONS OF DECEMBER 3. WE

DO NOT, HOWEVER, CONSIDER SOVIET RESPONSE TO BE

SATISFACTORY, SINCE IT CONVEYS NO CERTAINTY OF TERMINATION OF DISRUPTIVE EMISSIONS. EMBASSY SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS MATTER HERE AND FOR THIS REASON WE CONSIDER IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM EXPEDITIOUSLY.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY REPORT TO DEPT AND INFO ADDRESSEES WHEN NOTE DELIVERED TO SOVIET MINISTRIES.

4. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: REQUEST YOU CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF US NOTE TO APPROPRIATE HOST COUNTRY AUTHORITIES, ONCE NOTE HAS BEEN DELIVERED BY EMBASSY MOSCOW. YOU MAY DRAW ON PARA 2 ABOVE IN MAKING ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENT.
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